

Soon thereafter that gun was fired, and its booming and the crashing caused by its shot echoed and re-echoed far and wide.

The people of North Carolina had appeared to hesitate about withdrawing from the Union, but it was not because of their indifference to the doctrine of "State's Rights" and "community independence."

In the matter of secession they showed the same conservatism that characterized their deliberations whilst considering the Constitution before agreeing to become one of the United States. They cherished a hope for a pacific settlement of the questions then disturbing the country.

When all overtures for peace had failed; when those representing the United States Government held out promises looking to the evacuation of Sumter, whilst preparations were secretly going on to reinforce it; and when these treacherous promises were discovered and the fort was bombarded and captured by the Confederates; and, thereupon, the President of the United States called for troops to put down the rebellion—to coerce, to subjugate an independent State, then all the people, with few exceptions, manifested their willingness to resist any such attempt.

North Carolina took her place promptly on the side of constitutional rights and civil liberty, and most nobly did she maintain and hold her position to the bitter end.

The officers and teachers of the Institute, being military men, promptly offered their services to their State. It was soon apparent that the school could not be continued. Most of the cadets went to their homes in their own States to volunteer.

Col. Charles F. Fisher, then President of the North Carolina Rail Road, in pursuance of his purpose to raise a regiment, brought a number of men from along the N. C. R. R. and the Western N. C. R. R. and quartered them in that part of the barracks that had been vacated, and he asked that those cadets who were still remaining should drill his men. They willingly did so, and some of them were offered positions in the regiment. In that way the writer became

a member of Fisher's regiment.

It was soon decided that a better place for the camp of instruction would be Company Shops. So all were carried down there, and the work of organization and instruction was carried on as rapidly as practicable. The camp was in an old field along the Rail Road, just east of the shops. It is now a part of the town of Burlington.

Nearly every day there were train loads of troops passing from the Southern States "on to Virginia"—their cheers were greeted with hearty responses by our men.

The few pages to which this sketch must be compressed will not admit details as to the organization of the different companies. For a roll of the officers and men at the organization and for subsequent changes by resignations, promotions, deaths and transfers, reference must be had to "the Roster of N. C. Troops," heretofore published by authority, from which, imperfect though it be, it would be necessary to copy in order to give names. For casualties in battle, deaths from wounds and disease, killed and captured, reference must be had to the Muster Rolls, Morning Reports and other records on file in the proper department, or at Washington, where the Rebellion Records are being compiled—access to which is to me at present impracticable.

What is called for, as I understand it, is a short summary of the part performed in the Confederate War by each of the about seventy regiments, eleven battalions and nine batteries of N. C. Troops—so short a history of each that all can be published in one volume of convenient size.

Suffice it then to say, as to the organization, that the 6th N. C. State Troops was duly organized on the — day of June, 1861, at Company Shops, with C. F. Fisher as Colonel, W. T. Dortch as Lieutenant-Colonel, and C. E. Lightfoot as Major. When the regiment was about to leave for Virginia, Lieut. Col. Dortch, on the death of Gov. Ellis, resigned by reason of his office in the Legislature. Lightfoot was made Lieut. Colonel and Capt. Webb of Company B was made Major.